

Juduser

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2022 7:11 PM
To: JudTestimony
Cc: Senator Slap; Rep. Exum, Tammy
Subject: Pending Juvenile Justice "Reform" Bills

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I write to support SB Bo 387 - Concerning the Recommendation of the Juvenile Policy and Oversight Committee.

I write in Opposition to:

- ☐ S.B. No. 365: AN ACT CONCERNING JUVENILE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORMS
- ☐ S.B. No. 388: AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFENSE OF A PERSON OR A PERSON'S DWELLING, PLACE OF WORK OR MOTOR VEHICLE.
- ☐ H.B. No. 5418: AN ACT REVISING JUVENILE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE STATUTES AND INSURANCE STATUTES CONCERNING THEFT OF A MOTOR VEHICLE
- ☐ S.B. No. 392: AN ACT CONCERNING STATEMENTS MADE BY JUVENILES.
- ☐ H.B. No. 5417: AN ACT CONCERNING JUVENILE JUSTICE AND SERVICES AND FIREARMS BACKGROUND CHECKS.
- ☐ S.B. No. 386: AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF THE JUVENILE DELINQUENCY LAWS OF THIS STATE.

I am a member of Asylum Hill Congregational Church and engage with GHIAA's action for justice. I engage because it is time for us to move forward together to support justice and equal opportunity for youth from every background, of every color. I am horrified by the misinformation and scare tactics spread recently concerning auto theft, resulting in bills that attack civil rights and due process for juveniles. As we all know, those impacted by these proposals would be juveniles from less economically advantaged urban backgrounds.

The current Juvenile Justice System in Connecticut follows best practices. The legislation I oppose today is a departure from these

1. The legislation we oppose is a knee jerk response to a misinformation campaign about a rise in crime in CT being committed by youth that is unfounded.

3. Now is the time to invest in issues that really matter to youth – mental health treatment, affordable housing, public education, job training, healthcare, and not to roll back important advances in youth justice through this legislation.

4. In the bills I oppose today there are detrimental policy proposals that would do harm to our youth and set us back. In some of the proposals, there are some items worth considering, but the helpful pieces of these legislative proposals should come through the Juvenile Justice and Policy Oversight Committee. Some examples include; (Pick a couple)

a. Increase flexibility when determining whether to detain a child: This is directly linked to politicians proposing to extend the detention time longer than 6 hours. - what happens in this time period? What's the time limit? Kids and families shouldn't have to wait for slow systems

b. Increase the sharing of information concerning juvenile cases by law enforcement agencies- This is harmful and aims to expand databases and surveillance of Black and Brown communities. Databases have been used to identify and deport undocumented immigrants.

c. Allow for global positioning monitoring of juveniles under certain circumstances: This practice is not good- it is expensive, ineffective, doesn't track in real time, doesn't get to the root issue. Money can be used to address the root issues and shouldn't be wasted on GPS.

d. Allow for automatic transfer to regular criminal docket for fourteen year old if charged with certain violent crimes: This is harmful because currently, you can't charge a 14 year old as an adult. We don't believe a child that young should be in the adult system, as they are not built or equipped to serve children, and this is essentially rolling back the Raise the Age legislation that was passed in 2015-2016 (which has diverted many kids from the system and has nothing to do with the current climate of youth crime). It's important to know that if they did charge 14 year old as adults they'd be sent to Manson Youth Institute which DOJ released findings in December that found they were in violation of civil and disability rights in terms of their conditions and services for young people

e. Establish a committee to evaluate the criminal justice system for juveniles and adults. This wants to remove the JJPOC- this is wrong and should not be done. this committee doesn't have impacted people on it, various advocacy groups, etc. The JJPOC can and should do the job that's proposed for this group.

Please! Now is the time for cool,
clear heads with commitment to
justice and progressive judicial
process.

Our GHIAA congregations stand ready to support justice for all ! To learn more, watch this 7 minute video. On GHIAA's position.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,
Carolyn Stockman
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Sent from my iPhone